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LETTER DATED 2 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 1 August 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing United States and British aggression against Iraq inside the illegal air exclusion zones. This aggression is a flagrant breach of international peace and security which cannot be disregarded or condoned by the Security Council, or by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 1 August 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to our previous letters, the most recent of which was dated 22 July 1999, and have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that the United States and British administrations are still persisting with their hostile and provocative actions against the Republic of Iraq, causing many casualties and much material damage. The United States and British aircraft take off from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to carry out aerial rocket and bombing attacks on residential districts, service installations and public property, killing and wounding large numbers of people including women, children and the elderly.

The continuous United States and British aggression against the steadfast Republic of Iraq is a consistent policy of those two States designed to attain their political objectives of impairing the sovereignty, independence and national integrity of Iraq. This policy, which is openly admitted by officials of the two States concerned, constitutes, by the most elementary standards of international practice, a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the principles of international law, all of which repudiate the use or threat of force against the integrity and independence of any State.

The claim that the United States and British aggression is intended to defend measures to protect the air exclusion zones in the north and south of Iraq, which has been imposed by these two States without any right, and without any basis in law or legitimacy, is a pathetic attempt to justify their continuing military aggression against Iraq.

The Republic of Iraq regards all States, both those whose aircraft carry out these aggressive acts and those from whose territory the aircraft take off, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, as being fully responsible internationally for these aggressive acts and for the resulting compensation for material damage and human casualties. I also draw your attention to the fact that this brutal and continuous military aggression against my country is a blatant violation of international peace and security which cannot be disregarded or condoned by the Security Council, or by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, particularly as the aggressor States are permanent members of the Security Council which have a special responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. The hostile military acts carried out by those two States are thus conducive to the collapse of the collective security regime enshrined in the Charter.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, while holding the Governments of these States fully responsible internationally for their hostile and provocative actions, and for the resulting damage, maintains its full and well-established right to take the necessary actions to defend the inviolability and sovereignty

of the territory of Iraq and the security of its people and to demand compensation for all the human, material and moral damage they have suffered as a result of these actions, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq